



The Math Messenger

Mrs. Z's 2nd Grade

October 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

Happy Halloween Month! I hope this October finds you happy and healthy and ready for the change in weather. We will be focusing on numbers and number operations this month in Math. This means that your child will be learning counting, measuring, estimating, and problem solving throughout the upcoming weeks. You will see activities coming home that include both whole numbers and fractions as well as word problem practice. This is an extremely important month in Math and one that may cause stress and anxiety. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns! As always, family fun night is on Monday, October 3rd from 6-7!

Mrs. Lindsay Zahner

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A snapshot...

Oct. 3-7: represent whole numbers and fractions with physical materials and number lines. Students will also determine the number of items by estimating, grouping and counting.

Oct. 10-14: read, write, and order whole numbers and fractions

Oct 17-21: identify and represent equivalent fractions for halves and fourths

Oct 24-28: we will be working on problem solving this week focusing on appropriate strategies such as estimation, calculator use, and mental math strategies.

Fraction Fun!

This month our class will be focusing a lot on working with fractions. Want to know more how you can help at home? Come to family night! All subjects are covered so we can discuss any areas you need! Come join in the fun on October 3rd from 6 to 7 pm in your child's classroom! Here's some ideas to get you started in the meantime:

- **Get Cookin'!** Baking with your child is a great way to get in some quality family time as well as learn fractions! Break out those measuring cups and ask questions! Which measuring cup is the biggest? Smallest? What if we combined two $\frac{1}{4}$ cups of flour? Which measuring cup do you think it would fit into? How many times will $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fit into 1 cup? Practice estimating and "guess and check" to get your child some hands on experience with fractions! Just make sure to remember Mrs. Z when making brownies! :)
- **Count the total number of rooms in your house.** Then make a list of how many rooms have pillows, windows, socks, etc. Represent these as fractions. Example: 3 out of 7 rooms in the house have pillows which can be written as $\frac{3}{7}$. Bring your work into school so we can use it as real-life examples in Math!
- **Play fraction Bingo!** Make a Bingo card representing a variety of fractions. Then call off fractions until a Bingo is made! Play regular Bingo, 4 corners, and blackout (where you cover the entire card)

Interesting Math-site:

<http://www.vectorkids.com/vkfractions.htm>

This is an interactive website that allows students to work on numerators and denominators. Students are to count all the slices of pie as the denominator and only the colored in pieces as the numerator. They can then visualize what the fraction actually looks like.

Math Madness:

World Card Making Day - Have your child make me a card by folding a piece of paper in half and then half again. How many squares is $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, 1st

National Poetry Day— write a poem about fractions! Try utilizing key terms such as numerator, denominator, halves, whole. 15th

Star Spangled Banner First Sung—work on fractions with the flag! How many lines compared to stars? What's $\frac{1}{2}$ of stars? 19th

Halloween— make fractional representations of Halloween candy! $\frac{1}{2}$ of my candy is chocolate, what portion is chewy? 31st